

Accordingly, Claims 11-13, 16-18, and 22-24 are withdrawn from further consideration in this application as indicated above in light of the election of Group I.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 9, and 10 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,155,728, issued to Sakaino et al. (hereinafter "Sakaino"). Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that Sakaino does not describe each and every element of the claimed embodiment, and therefore Sakaino is not anticipatory. More specifically, applicants assert that Sakaino at least does not teach, suggest, or disclose a printing method or process where "during said continuous print mode of operation . . . said media is moved by said media drive assembly past said print head in a *downstream* direction, and wherein during said single sheet mode of operation . . . said media is moved by said media drive assembly past said print head in an *upstream* direction one sheet at a time" as recited in Claim 1. [Emphasis added.]

The following remarks focus on independent Claim 1, which Claims 9 and 10 depend from. As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claim 1 as being anticipated by Sakaino, and more specifically as being anticipated by the arrow indicated by reference letter "A" in FIGURE 2a and by the disclosure of Sakaino found at Col. 9, lines 38-45, reprinted immediately following:

In a cut paper printing mode shown in FIGS. 8 and 12, the switching pin 41a of the rocking plate 41 is away from the switching plate 11. At this time, since the spring fixing portion 11c of the switching plate 11 is pulled by the rocking spring 47, the switching plate 11 is rocked around a plate shaft 11a, and positioned at a predetermined angle by the stopper pin 11b.

For at least the following reasons, applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's position that Sakaino teaches paper movement in both an upstream and a downstream direction, and therefore submit that Sakaino does not anticipate Claim 1.

1. Sakaino Does not Teach Both Upstream and Downstream Direction of Paper Movement

Sakaino does not teach, suggest, or disclose a printing method with "downstream" movement of paper during continuous feed printing and "upstream" movement of paper during cut paper printing as generally recited in Claim 1. Although the Examiner correctly notes that Sakaino, at Col. 8, lines 41-44, describes an upstream direction of paper movement by stating that continuous feed paper is "delivered from the tractor 8, and fed to the printing head 6," Sakaino fails to teach or suggest a downstream direction of cut paper movement. An exhaustive search of the Sakaino specification fails to find any mention that during cut paper printing, the cut paper is fed in a downstream direction. To the contrary, as discussed below, multiple sections in Sakaino indicate that the paper is fed in only a single downstream direction, and therefore Sakaino cannot be said to teach "downstream" and "upstream" paper movement.

2. Paper Feeding Device Disclosure Fails to Describe Paper Movement in an Upstream Direction

In a discussion regarding the operational aspects and components necessary for switching between continuous feed paper and cut paper, a teaching of an anticipating embodiment would disclose a paper feeding device that changes the directional of the paper. However, Sakaino, when describing its paper feeding device, does not mention a reversing of direction of the drive mechanism of the paper feeding device to change the direction of paper movement from a downstream direction to an upstream direction. Moreover, when Sakaino describes the process labeled "paper course switching" in which the printer is configured to change from printing continuous paper to cut paper, Sakaino states that "the switching of paper course can be

performed in accordance with the printing mode by a simple configuration of the rocking plate 41, switching plate 11, and rocking spring 47." [See Col. 9, lines 50-53.] Sakaino does not teach or suggest changing the direction of paper movement.

When changing between continuous paper and cut paper printing, Sakaino only describes the changing of the orientation of a switching plate and rocking plate. Absent the explicit teaching of a reversal of the drive mechanism to drive the paper in an opposite direction, such a change of direction cannot be assumed. In summary, applicants submit that Sakaino's description of the reorientation of various components of the printer to result in a change in a path of the paper when the printer prints upon continuous paper relative to a path of the paper when the printer prints upon cut paper is not a teaching or suggestion of changing the direction of paper movement. More specifically, although the path of the paper may change when Sakaino prints upon continuous paper versus cut paper, the direction of movement of the paper remains in the same direction.

3. No Disclosure of a Reversible Motor Is Included in Sakaino.

Sakaino does not teach, suggest, or disclose a reversing of the drive mechanism which is utilized in conjunction with drive rollers 35 and 25. The only applicable discussion of a drive means is a reference to motor M, which is discussed at Col. 6, lines 40-65. Throughout the discussion of motor M and the incorporated gear train, only one direction of the drive rollers is described. No reverse direction of rotation is suggested. Further, an exhaustive search of the specification fails to locate any mention of a change in direction of motor M, or for that matter, drive rollers 35 or 25. Such a change in directional of motor M would be necessary for both an "upstream" and "downstream" movement of the paper. Thus, since reversing the direction of rotation of motor M is neither taught or suggested in Sakaino, Sakaino can only be said to teach an upstream direction of paper movement during printing.

4. The Arrow in Fig. 2a Does Not Teach or Suggest Upstream Paper Movement

As previously noted, the Office Action indicates that the arrow indicated by reference letter "A" in Fig. 2a teaches movement of the cut paper in a downstream direction. Applicants respectfully disagree. Although an arrow is depicted in FIGURE 2a and labeled "A," applicants submit that there is no support in the specification that the arrow refers to the direction of cut paper movement. Moreover, a thorough examination of Sakaino reveals that Sakaino fails to ever mention the arrow or what the arrow is referring to. Accordingly, there is no indication given in Sakaino of the significance of the arrow shown in Fig. 2a, or that the arrow is even related to paper movement. Therefore, applicants submit that the Office Action's assumption that the mere presence of the arrow indicated by reference letter "A" in Fig. 2a teaches a specific direction of paper movement is without support. Since the arrow is never mentioned in the specification of Sakaino, what the arrow teaches, if anything at all, is merely conjecture and without support.

5. Dependent Claims 9 and 10

With respect to the remaining claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in light of Sakaino, applicants note that Claims 9 and 10 all depend from Claim 1. Therefore, these dependent claims are all allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1. In addition, Claims 9 and 10 also include a number of recitations not disclosed, taught or suggested by any of the cited and applied references, and therefore are also allowable for this additional reason.

6. Summary of Applicants' Remarks Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 9, and 10

For at least the above reasons, applicants submit that Sakaino does not describe each and every element of the claimed embodiment, and therefore submit that Sakaino is not anticipatory.

More specifically, applicants assert that Sakaino at least does not teach, suggest, or disclose a printing method or process where during a continuous print mode of operation the media is moved by a media drive assembly past the print head in a *downstream* direction, and wherein during a single sheet mode of operation the media is moved by the media drive assembly past the print head in an *upstream* as generally recited in Claim 1, since Sakaino only teaches upstream paper movement. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 1 and the rejected claims depending therefrom is improper, and should be withdrawn.

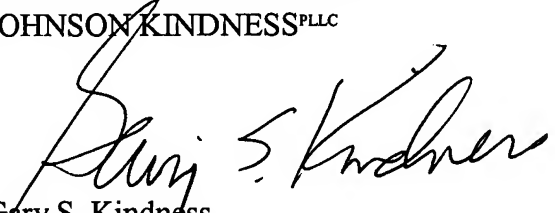
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, and allowance of pending Claims 1-10, 14-15, and 19-21 at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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